

Redbud

Cercis canadensis L.

Redbud, sometimes called Judastree, is one of our most beautiful spring flowering trees. It grows throughout the state and generally is a small understory species that does not exceed 12 inches in diameter. In addition, it is planted throughout the state on all types of soils in yards, parks and along streets. Generally speaking, the better the soil, the larger it will grow.

The sapwood is creamy white and usually narrow. The heartwood is greenish to yellowish-brown, which turns a rich orange-brown after exposure to sunlight. The bark is thin, dark brown and furrowed into narrow, scaly plates. The grain is generally straight. The wood is ring porous, and moderately hard; it glues well and machines easily.

The tree is of little value except as an ornamental. However, woodworkers can cut blocks of wood from redbud trees being removed from yards or parks and make useful novelties from the lumber. It is generally too small or short to saw in a sawmill, but can be ripped into boards with a chainsaw, dried and run through a planer to bring it to a workable size.



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